

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
HUMBOLDT COUNTY WINNEMUCCA MOUNTAIN HIKING/BIKING TRAIL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2011-0002-EA**

Based on the Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2011-0002-EA, dated June 2011, I have determined that implementation of the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and therefore an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be required.

I have determined that the trail design and construction techniques are in conformance with the approved Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan and are consistent to the maximum extent possible by Federal law with the plans and policies of neighboring local, county, state, and federal agencies and governments. This finding and conclusion is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), with regard to both context and intensity factors.

The following mitigation measures were developed in the EA to minimize impacts to rangeland resources:

- The approximate dates for the cattle drives in the Sand Dune allotment will be posted at the trail heads
- Organized biking or hiking events would be permitted to avoid cattle drives
- Trail kiosks would include educational and etiquette protocols for hikers and bikers who encounter livestock – to include the following:
 - Recommendation for dogs to be kept on a leash or controlled by owner to avoid conflicts with livestock, wildlife or other trail users.

Context

Humboldt County proposes a hiking and biking recreational trail system on Winnemucca Mountain in northern central Nevada. Winnemucca Mountain is located two miles north of the city of Winnemucca.

The Proposed Action consists of two trails - totaling approximately 7.3 miles in length - and two trail heads with associated signs and kiosks. Signage would provide directional and logistical information regarding the trails as well as interpretive information on the local ecological and cultural resources. The trail design incorporates full bench construction, rolling dips and water bars. Parking for the Meandering Way Trailhead is at the Veteran's Memorial Park. The Summit Trailhead is located at the top of Winnemucca Mountain and is designated as a drop-off and/or pickup point only. The trails are contained entirely on the southeast portion of Winnemucca Mountain.

The Meandering Way Trail is a 3.4 mile loop beginning on public land at the north terminus of Bengochea Circle. Parking for this trailhead is approximately 200 yards south of the trailhead at Veterans Park. The trail design incorporates moderate grades not to exceed 7.6 percent. A connector trail creates a one mile loop. The Summit Trail would connect with Meandering Way and provide a 3.9 mile route to the summit of

Winnemucca Mountain. Approximately 1.76 miles utilizes existing two-track dirt roads. Portions of this trail has 60 -70 percent cross slope is rated as "difficult" for both bikers and hikers. The Summit Trailhead is located at the top of Winnemucca Mountain is designated as a drop-off and/or point only.

Intensity

1) *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.*

The environmental assessment has considered both beneficial and adverse impacts of a recreational non-motorized trail on Winnemucca Mountain. No concerns related to natural or cultural resources were discovered.

2) *The degree to which the Proposed Action affects public health or safety.*

The Proposed Action would not adversely affect public health or safety.

3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

The Proposed Action does not impact any National Register eligible sites, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers or ecologically critical areas.

4) *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

There is no known negative effect on the quality of the human environment from the development of a hiking and biking trail within the jurisdiction of the Humboldt River Field Office.

Native American Consultation has been continuous through the evaluation of this project; however, no formal or informal comments have been received from the tribes.

5) *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

The Proposed Action is not unique or unusual. The BLM has previous experience implementing similar actions in similar areas and have found the effects to be reasonably predictable. There are no known effects of the Proposed Action identified in the EA which are considered uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

6) *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

Each Proposed Action is evaluated individually as to whether or not it may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. It has been determined that this Proposed Action will cause neither.

7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

Based on the EA, no significant cumulative impacts are expected. The Proposed Action, when evaluated together with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable land

disturbing activities in the area, would not result in cumulatively significant impacts at the local or watershed basin scale.

8) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.*

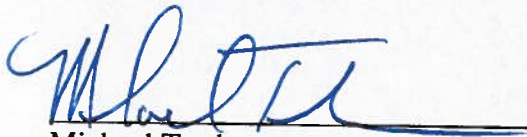
The Project Area is not in the vicinity of districts, sites, highways, structures or objects listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP.

9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA of 1973.*

There are no known threatened or endangered species present. Based on the EA, no significant impacts would result to special status species, including sensitive species, or their habitats from implementing the Proposed Action.

10) *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.*

The Proposed Action does not violate or threaten any known Federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.



Michael Truden
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office

6-27-11
Date